

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 /067 W

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R 201605Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9024

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11933

E.O. 11652: GDS 31 DEC 82

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IT

SUBJECT: NATO EXERCISES: AMPHIBIOUS LANDING IN ITALY

"DISPLAY DETERMINATION"

REF: STATE 179930

1.ACCORDING GOI CONTACTS, DISPLAY DETERMINATION HAS BEEN FULLY VETTED IN NATO AND GOI CHANNELS. IN GOI, AFFIRMATIVE DECISION HAS BEEN GIVEN BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITALIAN MILITARY AND MFA, AND OF POSSIBLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS. SO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE GOI, EVEN IN PRESENT UNSTABLE TIMES, HAS LITTLE OR NO TREPIDATION CONCERNING DOMESTIC LASHBACK.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI JUDGEMENT TO BE CORRECT. A FEW ITALIAN PERSONALITIES, OR ITALIAN MEDIA, MAY ATTEMPT TO MAKE SOME POLITICAL HAY OUT OF DISPLAY DETERMINATION, BUT WE FORESEE AT THIS POINT NOTHING UNMANAGEABLE. WE MUST ADD THAT, SHOULD THE DOMESTIC

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POLITICAL PICTURE TURN DECIDELY SOUR PRIOR TO EXERCISE

DATES EMBASSY MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO RECOMMEND THAT
ITALIAN ASPECTS OF DISPLAY DETERMINATION BE
REVAMPED OR CANCELLED.

3. AS A POST-SCRIPT, MFA SOURCE TOLD US THAT FOUR
CONSIDERATIONS LED TO ITALIAN APPROVAL OF DISPLAY
DETERMINATION CONVOY IN ADRIATIC TO ANCONA AREA:

-- CONCLUSION OF TRIESTE DISPUTE BY TREATY OF
OSIMO HAS GREATLY RELAXED TENSIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA,

-- YUGOSLAVIAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY
INFORMED,

-- YUGOSLAVS KNOW THAT NATO POWER IN THE MED
PROVIDES AS MUCH PROTECTION TO GOY AS TO ITALY, AND

-- ANYWAY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULDN'T DEBAR
NATO FROM CONDUCTING LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE
EXERCISES. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME11933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760284-0780
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760740/aaaabjfc.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 179930
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO EXERCISES: AMPHIBIOUS LANDING IN ITALY "DISPLAY DETERMINATION"
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IT, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006